

# Wyandotte Caves

## Tour Fee Proposal and Visitation Schedule

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**Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of State Parks  
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## **Wyandotte Caves Tour Fees and Visitation Schedule**

### **Indiana State Parks - 2016**

#### **Tour Fees**

We request approval for tour pricing for Little Wyandotte Cave and Big Wyandotte Cave in Harrison County. We also request approval for price ranges that will allow us to adjust rates to remain competitive with similar attractions in the future.

We anticipate reopening both Little Wyandotte Cave and Big Wyandotte for tours in the summer of 2016 for the first time since Indiana's state caves were closed in response to White-nose Syndrome (WNS) in 2009. Tours will be led by O'Bannon Woods State Park staff.

The decision to reopen these two caves for summer tours has been made in consultation with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW).

#### **Visitation Schedule**

Tours will begin on or after July 9, 2016, following the completion of site renovations and the installation of new lighting in Big Wyandotte Cave. In future years, we anticipate that tours will begin on Memorial Day Weekend. The number and types of tours are still under evaluation, but will include at a minimum one-hour tours of Little Wyandotte Cave, two-hour walking tours of Big Wyandotte Cave and periodic Wild Cave Tours.

Big Wyandotte Cave will be closed from September 1 through at least April 30 as it was for a number of years prior to the appearance of WNS. This three-season closure will continue due to its significance as a hibernaculum for the Indiana bat. Little Wyandotte Cave may eventually be used for year-round group tours, although no fall tour options are currently planned for 2016.

Our first priority is the conservation and management of bats in Indiana, particularly those that are rare or endangered. However, we also believe that the best way for new generations of Hoosiers to understand the significance of karst topography and cave ecosystems is to provide them with hands-on access while operating within guidelines that conserve bat populations.

Information related to the impact of WNS on caves across the country will be provided to visitors, and all who enter the caves will practice accepted WNS decontamination procedures.

#### **Brief History**

Wyandotte Caves were designated a National Natural Landmark in 1972. Big Wyandotte Cave is known for its long open passageways and large rooms, with formations such as Monument Mountain, the Crater Room, Pillars Palace, the Garden of Helictites, and a large stalagmite called Pillar of the Constitution, which can only be seen on wild cave tours. The site was used by Native Americans for thousands of years. They mined chert, which was used to produce stone tools. When European settlers arrived, they mined saltpeter, which was used in gunpowder and Epsom salts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

<b>Proposed Tour Fee Schedule for Reopening Wyandotte Caves</b>				
<b>Fee Description</b>	<b>Last Documented Fees*</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee Range</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Little Wyandotte Cave Walking Tour-Adult	\$4.00 (1996)	\$8.00	\$8.00 - \$20.00	7/9/2016
Little Wyandotte Cave Walking Tour-Children**	\$2.00 (1996)	\$4.00	\$4.00 - \$15.00	7/9/2016
Little Wyandotte Cave Walking Tour-Less than 6 years old	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	7/9/2016
Little Wyandotte Cave - Prearranged Group*** (All ages)	\$1.75 (1996)	\$3.00	\$3.00 - \$15.00	7/9/2016
Big Wyandotte Cave 2 Hour Walking Tour-Adult	\$16.00 (2007)	\$18.00	\$18.00 - \$30.00	7/9/2016
Big Wyandotte Cave 2 Hour Walking Tour Ages 6-11	\$8.00 (2007)	\$9.00	\$9.00 - \$20.00	7/9/2016
Big Wyandotte Cave 2 Hour Tour - Prearranged Group Adults	\$12.00 (2007)	\$14.00	\$14.00 - \$30.00	7/9/2016
Big Wyandotte Cave 2 Hour Tour - Prearranged Group Students	\$7.00 (2007)	\$8.00	\$8.00 - \$20.00	7/9/2016
Wild Cave Tour - Big Wyandotte 5 Hour Age 16-up	\$35.00 (2007)	\$60.00	\$60.00-\$120.00	7/9/2016
Wild Cave Tour - Big Wyandotte-All Day (8 Hour) Age 16-up	\$35.00 (2007)	\$85.00	\$85.00-\$140.00	7/9/2016
*1996 pricing is DNR-based; 2007 pricing is from a concession operator				
** (Child age 6 - 11) - (Adults 12 and older) *** Prearranged group is defined as 10 or more children from an educational institution or non-profit organization.				

## Comparative Pricing for Other Cave Tours

### **Marengo Cave (Indiana - Private)**

40 minute tour: \$9/children; \$16/adults  
 80 minute tour: \$11/children/\$19/adults  
 Combo (2 hrs): \$16/children; \$27/adult  
 School Groups (80 min): \$7/student  
 School Groups (2 hr): \$9/student

### **Indiana Caverns (Indiana - Private)**

80 minute tour: \$10.50/children; \$19.50/adults  
 School Groups: \$7/students; \$10/adults  
 Wild Cave(4 hrs): \$85-\$95/person

### **Blue Springs Caverns (Indiana - Private)**

60 minute tour: \$8/children; \$16/adults  
 School Group: \$5-6/students; \$12/adults

### **Squire Boone Caverns (Indiana - Private)**

60 minute tour: \$8.50/children; \$16/adults

### **Mammoth Cave National Park (Kentucky - Federal)**

75 minute tour: \$8/children; \$13/adults  
 2 hour tour: \$10/children; \$15/adults

### **Karchner Caverns State Park (Arizona - State)**

90 minute tour: \$5/under 7; \$13/teens; \$23/adults